

MENTOR VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTION: BRONXCONNECT

(One-Year Commitment)

Program Description:

BronxConnect is a faith-based, alternative-to-incarceration youth program focused around mentoring services. The mission of BronxConnect is to connect Bronx court-involved youth, ages 12–18, with positive resources found in the local Bronx community, through mentoring relationships that prevent recidivism and address youth-initiated goals in the areas of education and employment. BronxConnect trains a team of mentors from a neighborhood church to work with young people returning to the community after involvement with the juvenile justice system.

Position Description:

BronxConnect mentors serve as part of a team from their church that works together to take responsibility for just one youth in the neighborhood. Mentors commit to spend at least 12 months of consistent weekly time with youth that have come through the juvenile justice system. Mentors spend this weekly time simply being adult friends to the youth (mentee). Not a parent, not a therapist, not a preacher, not Santa Claus. Rather, a team of adult friends that invest their time listening, building trust, establishing a relationship, supporting, guiding and through the course of the year, sharing the love of Jesus Christ with the mentee.

Responsibilities/Commitment:

BronxConnect mentors participate in the following areas:

- 2–4 hours/week of quality time spent with the mentee;
- All mentor trainings (including one full-day pre-service training and four quarterly evening in-service trainings);
- Quarterly group mentor–mentee activities;
- Annual Mentoring Celebration Banquet;
- Mid-year mentor–mentee retreat; and
- Optional monthly mentor prayer and support meeting.

Supervision/Support Schedule:

- Weekly phone meetings with Match Supervisor (first month of match);
- Monthly phone meetings with Match Supervisor (remaining months of match);
- Monthly reporting to Mentoring Team Leader (fellow church member);
- Monthly or bimonthly team meetings regarding progress of youth;
- Quarterly in-person supervision meeting with Match Supervisor; and
- Semi-annual goal-setting meeting with youth and Match Supervisor.